

E-newsletter. Volume 1. Issue 2. April 13, 2007. (562) 570-6919. district1@longbeach.gov

Community News

COMMUNITY CELEBRATES THE LEGACY OF CESAR CHAVEZ

Vice Mayor Bonnie Lowenthal and the Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation & Marine celebrated the legacy of Cesar Chavez at the 6th Annual Cesar Chavez Luncheon on Monday, March 26, 2007. The program included remarks by Mayor Foster, an invocation by Father



Mike Roebert of St. Lucy's Church, and a tribute to Chavez by Maria Elena Durazo, the Executive Secretary/Treasurer of the LA County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO.

The celebration also included the presentation of the inaugural Cesar Chavez Peacemaker awards to students who by their actions on and off campus, help promote peace and understanding between cultures. Congratulations to the Long Beach School for Adults Student Council, Sonia Bawa-Renaiisance High School for the Arts, CARE Center Peer Counselors-Poly High School, Patrick Alex-Jordan High School, Autumn Williams-CAMS, and Jaguars United-Cabrillo High School. Congratulations also to the elementary school students who won an essay contest on the lessons learned from Cesar Chavez's struggle for social justice: Arianna Espinoza from Chavez Elementary, Gloria Denham from Edison Elementary and Francisco Mercado from Roosevelt Elementary.



NEW HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

New affordable and market-rate housing opportunities are available in the 1st District and nearby neighborhoods. Interested folks are encouraged to contact the real estate development companies to sign up for interest/waiting lists or to obtain an application:

Neo Zoe: (310) 294-9898
 1500 Pine Avenue

Olive Court: (866) 654-3300
1856 Long Beach Boulevard
Pacific Lights: (562) 599-5230

1643 Pacific Avenue

Puerto Del Sol: (562) 259-1929
 3rd Street between Golden and Maine

Park Pacific Towers: (562) 435-1803

714 Pacific Avenue

 Decro Long Beach: (562) 901-0742 842-858 Cerritos Avenue

• City Place Lofts: (310) 848-5153

4th and Elm



TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS



A comprehensive neighborhood traffic review of the area bounded by Atlantic Avenue to the west, Long Beach Boulevard to the east, 10th Street to the north, and 7th Street to the south was completed by City Traffic Engineers. The results of that comprehensive engineering review ultimately recommended that all-way stop controls be installed at 8th Street & Linden Avenue, 9th Street & Linden Avenue, and that the signal indications (red/yellow/green) for the traffic signal at Atlantic Avenue & 8th Street be upgraded from smaller 8-inch indications to 12-inch indications. These improvements should provide a predictable traffic pattern/control for the area, provide a more pedestrian friendly environment, and enhance traffic safety. It is anticipated that this work will be completed within 90 days.

Council Happenings

INCREASING THE EFFICIENCY AND AVAILABILITY OF PARKING

The City of Long Beach hosted a workshop recently on "Parking in Long Beach" at the Neighborhood Resource Center. City staff from Traffic and Engineering, Parking Operations, Police Department, Neighborhood Services, Code Enforcement, Planning and Building, and City Manager's office presented reports on parking regulations and initiatives in the City of Long Beach.

Members of the public who attended the meeting voiced a number of frustrations and requests related to parking in their residential neighborhoods, including:

- reducing the impact from businesses and new development on existing street parking
- excessive red curbs that they felt weren't being utilized for safety purposes
- marking horizontal (parallel) parking spaces so that people couldn't strategically take up two spaces for one vehicle
- auto shops moving customer vehicles onto residential streets
- multiple families and individuals living in small units, resulting in 4 cars for a 1 bedroom apartment
- motorcycles parking on the street
- proposals for neighborhood beautification and parkway projects (such as curb work) that would result in a reduction of available parking spaces

In order to address the need for parking opportunities and solutions, at the April 17 City Council Meeting, Vice Mayor Bonnie Lowenthal is requesting a comprehensive Parking Master Plan for parking impacted areas and the creation of a Parking Task Force comprised of residents from each parking impacted area. Possible parking solutions which the Parking Master Plan would study and include are:

- Extend the public-private partnership of shared residential-commercial parking lot spaces to all Parking Impacted Areas
- 2) Moratorium on granting parking variances in parking impacted areas
- Re-evaluate the street parking permit program to determine how communities can benefit from restricted parking
- Increase the fine for auto shop businesses that park customer cars on the street
- 5) Increase the fine for parking nonworking vehicles on the street
- 6) Determine if private tow companies can tow vehicles parked illegally on public streets –such as motorcycles and vehicles parked for 72 hours at owner's expense
- 7) Ask the City Manager to work with the Port of Long Beach in identifying, procuring and developing land to serve as a truck parking lot
- 8) Increase the space efficiency of parking lots by implementing automated parking garages

WATER CONSERVATION AND RECLAMATION EFFORTS

State and regional water experts have expressed concern that during the upcoming years, our region faces the possibility of serious water shortages due to drought, pipeline repairs, ecological concerns, and inefficient usage. By increasing efforts to reduce and recycle water use now, our City would be making a significant contribution to protecting our ongoing supply of water.

At the April 17, 2007, Council meeting,

Vice Mayor Bonnie Lowenthal is requesting that the City of Long Beach increase

measures to reduce and recycle water usage by expanding on the current water conservation programs offered by the Long Beach Water Department.

Lowenthal specifically requests (1) a report back from the Long Beach Water Department on water usage and conservation measures; additional incentives and education efforts that can be offered to reduce water usage, possibly in partnership with the City of Long Beach or environmental nonprofits; a comparison of what other cities are doing to support water efficiency, (2) a report from the City Manager on water reclamation efforts in public and private buildings, including the feasibility of expanding such efforts to all new construction, (3) increased usage of California native plants and increased usage of reclaimed water at all City facilities, including parks, parkways and libraries.

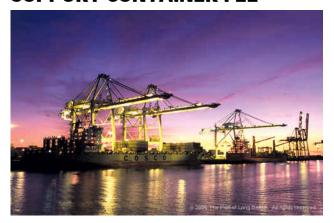
LOBBYIST REGISTRATION AND REPORTING HEADED TO COUNCIL

During the Long Beach Elections Oversight Committee (EOC) meeting chaired by Vice Mayor Bonnie Lowenthal on Tuesday, April 10, Committee members voted to recommend adoption of a Lobbyist Registration ordinance intended to bring transparency and accountability to government actions by lobbyists.

The Ethics Review Task Force originally recommended the Lobbyist Registration ordinance in June 2002. In order to ensure confidence and transparency in the decision making process, the Task Force recommended that those who seek to influence decisions be identified and the extent of their activities be regularly documented.

The City Attorney's office presented a report comparing Long Beach's proposed lobbyist regulations to those of California's larger cities, including Los Angeles, San Diego, San Jose and San Francisco. The Elections Oversight Committee voted to recommend adoption of most of Oakland's lobbyist registration act, which includes registration prior to lobbying activities, \$1000 minimum threshold of compensation per month to qualify as a lobbyist, required quarterly activity reports, and a \$200 registration fee. The proposal now heads to the full Council for a vote.

SUPPORT CONTAINER FEE



On March 20, City Council passed a resolution in support of California Senate Bill 974, which would charge \$30 per container at the Ports of Long Beach, Los Angeles, and Oakland, and generate over \$525 million annually for infrastructure needs and air quality improvements. As California's busiest ports, the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles are vital economic engines in our community. However, the utilization of rail, trucks and ships to transport cargo has a detrimental

effect on the air quality and infrastructure in our region. The City of Long Beach is committed to supporting state legislation aimed at curbing the effects of congestion and pollution from the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles.

REQUIRE REVIEW OF DEMOLITION PERMITS

Vice Mayor Bonnie Lowenthal requested an interim zoning ordinance to require review of all demolition permits for structures greater than 45 years in age at the March 20 City Council meeting.

Due to the increase of building activity throughout the City, there has been a significant increase in the number of requests for demolition of all types of properties, from commercial buildings to single-family residences. The majority of these demolition requests are located in areas outside designated historic districts. Current City practice dealing with requests for demolition outside of historic districts is to issue the permit and allow the demolition except in those cases where an application for a larger development project has been submitted and an environmental review is being undertaken. This has created situations where demolition permits have been issued to remove structures that are potentially significant historic buildings.

Staff is currently updating the City's historic preservation ordinance (Chapter 2.63, Cultural Heritage Commission) to address a permanent solution to this issue. However, in order to provide in intervening solution, Vice Mayor Lowenthal requested that the City Attorney prepare an interim zoning ordinance to require review of all demolition permits for structures greater than 45 years in age prior to issuance of a building permit. If the structure is found to be potentially historically significant, the Planning and Building Department would then be authorized to withhold the issuance of a demolition permit, and the necessary CEQA analysis would need to be conducted if the applicant wanted to continue with the demolition process. The matter was referred to the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee.

Events and Meetings



Saturday, April 14, 2007

- Vice Mayor Bonnie Lowenthal invites the public to a free screening of the Academy Award winning film "An Inconvenient Truth" in celebration of Earth Day and in partnership with the Healthy Kids Day Fair at Chavez Park, 401 Golden Avenue. The movie will start at 10:00 am. The Fair runs from 10 am – 3 pm and features healthy exhibits, activities, and classes to promote a healthy lifestyle.
- Long Beach Organic is hosting a Youth Environmental Leaders Eco-Rally at the Jewish Community Center, Grand Avenue and E. Willow Street, from 9 am – 6 pm. This will be a fun-filled inspirational day with environmentally friendly activities and discussions.

Wednesday, April 18

 The City of Long Beach is hosting an Anaheim Cultural Study Public Meeting regarding Cambodia Town at MacArthur Park, at 8 pm.

Saturday, April 21

 Cambodian New Year Celebration at El Dorado Park: 9am – 5pm at El Dorado Regional Park, Area III, 7550 E Spring Street, Long Beach. Program includes traditional folk dances, traditional ceremony, stage performances, traditional games, ethnic food, live bands and games for kids. For more information, please visit www.cam-cc.org

Sunday, April 22

Week long series of Health Fairs throughout the city! FREE health screenings, health insurance info, resource information, fingerprinting, music, face painting, refreshments and give-aways. Sunday will be the first of the fairs at St. Anthonys, 600 Olive Avenue, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. For additional dates, please call Rachel Plotkin, St. Mary Medical Center at 562-491-9066 or visit www.longbeach.gov/district1

Wednesday, April 25

- OpPORTunities with the Port of Long Beach: construction contractors, consultants, vendors and suppliers are welcome to learn about the Port's "Team Approach" to the contracting process; receive testimonials on working successfully with the port; and more! From 3:30 pm 6:00 pm at the Port Administration Building Board Room, 6th Floor, 925 Harbor Plaza Long Beach, CA 90802
- Long Beach Police Department West Division Community Leadership Forum featuring a presentation on the LBPD SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) Team. Community members are invited to attend and discuss police matters with West Division Command Staff/Officers. Meet at the West Division Substation, 1835 Santa Fe, at 6:00 pm.

Saturday, April 28

2nd Annual May Day Celebration at Drake Park, 951 Maine, from 1 pm - 4 pm.
 Activities will include: maypole dancing, arts, crafts, games, storytelling, facepainting, food & health fair, and a historic tour of the Bembridge Homesite.

Vice Mayor Bonnie Lowenthal hopes to stay in touch with you electronically through enewsletters. If you wish to be removed from the list, please email rhlee@longbeach.gov with "remove" in the subject line. If you wish to contact the Office of Vice Mayor Bonnie Lowenthal to discuss issues or concerns, please call 562.570.6919 or email district1@longbeach.gov. Thank you.